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IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claim 1, without prejudice or disclaimer to the subject matter disclosed therein.

Please add the following new claims 15-17 as follows:

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15. A method for detecting and/or quantifying a nucleic acid coding for SMR1 comprising:

- a) contacting a DNA or RNA molecule with a nucleotide probe
hybridizing to the nucleotide sequence encoding SEQ ID NO. 1
having the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID No. 1 under
conditions allowing said probe to hybridize with the target
DNA or RNA molecule; and
Indefinite without physical parameters of concentration temperature time
b) detecting the hybrid formed between the DNA or RNA molecule and said nucleotide probe.

Sub D5
16. A method according to claim 15 for detecting and/or qualifying mRNA coding for SMR1 polypeptide consisting essentially of:

- a) preparing mRNAs containing poly (A) sequence from the sub-maxillary gland of a rat;
b) subjecting said RNAs prepared in step a) to an electrophoresis in a gel;
c) transferring said RNAs to a nylon membrane;